

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJ: UNEP PROPOSAL TO SET UP A SERIES OF INDUSTRY
WORKSHOPS CONCERNING BENEFICIAL STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY
NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN POLLUTION CONTROL

FOR UNEP

1. DURING JUNE, UNEP CONSULTANT CHARLES DENNISON MET
EXTENSIVELY WITH EPA'S INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND TECHNICAL
PROGRAM DIRECTORS. HE QUIZZED THEM FOR THEIR REACTIONS TO
THE UNEP PLAN FOR WORKSHOPS WITH INDUSTRIAL GROUPS,
STARTING WITH PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY, DESIGNED TO SEEK A
BETTER HARMONIZATION OF ENVIRONMENT STANDARDS.

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2. WHILE AGREEING GENERALLY WITH THE CONCEPT THAT UNEP

SHOULD WORK WITH THE INDUSTRIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR THIS PURPOSE, EPA AND DEPARTMENT HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS AS TO FEASIBILITY AND APPROACH OUTLINED IN PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH WE CONCEDE THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL INVOLVEMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE UNEP YET HAS FORMULA FOR TAPPING THIS POTENTIAL IN WAYS THAT ALSO WILL ASSURE A BALANCED RESPONSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OTHERS. IN AN EFFORT TO HELP DENNISON DO SO, EPA PERSONNEL OFFERED EXTENSIVE COMMENT ON THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE AS ENVIRONMENT REGULATORS OF U.S. INDUSTRY.

3. NB: EPA OBSERVED THAT DENNISON'S APPARENT INTENT WAS TO HAVE UNEP'S ULTIMATE SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS ON "STANDARDS" BASED ALMOST SOLELY ON INDUSTRIAL RECOMMENDATIONS. CLEARLY, SOME ULTIMATE INPUT SHOULD COME ALSO FROM OTHER SOURCES SUCH AS INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BODIES.

4. WE HOPE DENNISON CONCURS WITH EPA'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UNEP WORKSHOPS SHOULD COMMENCE FIRST WITH THE DEFINITION OF POLLUTION CONTROL PROBLEMS WITHIN SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS PULP AND PAPER, WHERE THERE IS A PERCEIVED NEED AND HOPEFULLY A POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A GREATER HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS AND PRACTICES. WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BEST BE APPROACHED BY FIRST DEFINING THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONTROL PROBLEMS BEING FACED RATHER THAN BY INITIALLY ADDRESSING THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OF SPECIFIC STANDARDS. WE ASSUME DENNISON RECOGNIZES THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT THEIR REGULATORY PREROGATIVE. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO APPROACH THIS SUBJECT IN A WAY THAT WILL FULLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK THAT IS BEING PERFORMED BY OTHER MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, I.E., OECD.

5. SUGGEST MISSION CONVEY THESE VIEWS PRIVATELY TO STRONG AND DENNISON. INGERSOLL

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